



State of Illinois
Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor



Department of Human Services
Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary

SERVE Illinois

N E W S L E T T E R

A Prevention First publication

Summer 2006

Everyday Heroes Converge at Conference

Volunteer managers from across the state joined together May 11 and 12 at the Oak Brook Marriott Hotel for the Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration (ICOVA). This year's conference theme, "Volunteers . . . everyday heroes," came to life with television and comic book hero decorations and costumes throughout the conference registration area, banquet hall, and meeting rooms.



Participants chose from 28 different workshops.

from 11 organizations and businesses, as well as the new ICOVA Bookstore in collaboration with Training Systems, Inc., which featured books and training materials for volunteer management and program development. Breakout sessions were held on topics such as community engagement and collaboration, strategic planning, risk management, intergenerational volunteerism, working with volunteers with disabilities, online volunteer recruitment, volunteer screening, online survey instruments, service learning, fund raising, and media relations.

The conference's participants represented national nonprofits, national service programs, local/state/federal governments, private corporations, colleges and universities, arts and culture organizations, service organizations, recreational and entertainment organizations, and numerous other industries that utilize volunteers to accomplish their mission. ICVCS Commissioners Fred Rodriguez and Jocelyn Dionisio, ICVCS staff members Deborah McCarrel and Scott Niermann, and Illinois AmeriCorps Program Director Rebecca White served on the 2006 ICOVA Steering Committee. Several ICVCS grantees presented workshops on volunteerism topics, demonstrating best practices and helpful tips to their peers.

Next year's ICOVA conference is scheduled for May 10 and 11. Stay tuned this winter to www.icova.org and to *SERVE* Illinois for more information.

The purpose of this annual conference is to provide training and networking opportunities for experienced and new volunteer administrators and others in the field.

Through a collaboration of the Volunteer Centers of Illinois, the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS), and the Points of Light Foundation - Volunteer Center National Network, the Volunteer Management Training Series (VMTS) was offered. Of the 229 attendees, 27 completed the management training, which is recognized by volunteer administrators and nonprofits nationwide.

Participants were inspired, encouraged and entertained by keynote speakers Matt Wells of Springfield, internationally acclaimed storyteller Dan Keding of Chicago, and storyteller Dan LeMonnier. The exhibit hall included displays and information



Commissioner Fred Rodriguez dons a Zorro costume to complement the conference theme, "Volunteers . . . everyday heroes."

Want volunteer information? Go to www.illinois.gov/volunteer

From the Secretary



We're pleased to welcome the new AmeriCorps*State grantees in Illinois for Program years 2006 through 2009. AmeriCorps is administered by the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS). Its members are appointed by Gov. Rod Blagojevich, and its staff is looking forward to a viable partnership with the 2006-2009 AmeriCorps programs.

Recruitment for new AmeriCorps members is scheduled to begin soon. We expect a successful and innovative collaboration with the ICVCS. This year we are in a unique position to partner with and support organizations that serve persons with a wide range of disabilities. Our divisions of Developmental Disabilities, Mental Health, and Rehabilitation Services support people with disabilities, so we encourage our newly funded AmeriCorps programs to make a real effort to recruit them as AmeriCorps members.

We anticipate energy, commitment, and real change as AmeriCorps participants become involved in education, public safety and environmental initiatives. The programs will certainly advance partnerships with local groups, bridge gaps in service and undergird existing services for people in need. This quarterly publication, *SERVE Illinois*, is designed to convey how national service and traditional volunteerism are demonstrated each day in Illinois. We'll keep you informed.

Sincerely,

Carol L. Adams, Ph.D., Secretary
Illinois Department of Human Services

From the Chair



As many of you are aware, the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) administers the AmeriCorps*State and Community-Based Learn and Serve programs and collaborates with the Citizen Corps national service program. Another charge of the ICVCS

is to support and enhance traditional volunteerism, which we do through our relationship with the Volunteer Center of Illinois. The Volunteer Center of Illinois is an affiliate of the Points of Light Foundation's Volunteer Centers National Network. This successful partnership helps ensure the sustenance of statewide conferences on volunteerism and volunteer administration such as the Illinois Conference on Volunteer Administration (see this edition's cover story) and the Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference (scheduled this year for October 11 in Carterville, Illinois).

These programs and partnerships among local, state, and federal agencies and organizations demonstrate the commitment that each of these entities has to bettering our communities and serving those in need. Indeed,

volunteerism and service to our community is something everyone can do whether young, old, or somewhere in between.

This will be particularly evident this coming program year as the ICVCS launches a special initiative as part of our Unified State Plan to recruit people with a disability to Illinois AmeriCorps programs. As AmeriCorps programs enter the Member enrollment period for the 2006-2007 program year, the ICVCS encourages the recruitment of persons with a disability. It is the role of the ICVCS to assist our programs with reasonable accommodation requests necessary to ensure individuals selected complete a successful year of service with AmeriCorps.

We wish all our programs and new AmeriCorps Members the best as they begin their year of service.

Sincerely,

Dave Lawrence, Chair
Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

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If you would like to receive this newsletter or to make changes to your information, please send us your:

Name _____
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Clip and mail to: SERVE Illinois Editor, ICVCS
535 W. Jefferson Street, 3rd Floor, Springfield, Illinois 62702.
By fax: 217.557.0515. By e-mail: SERVEillinois@illinois.gov



Tutor/Mentor Conference Connects Globally

The Tutor/Mentor Leadership and Networking Conference connected tutoring and mentoring leaders from across Chicago, across the state and even, thanks to technology, across the globe. More than 190 participants attended the



L-R: Sylvia Puente, Commissioner Dan Bassill and Ted Gibbs of the Office of Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn

conference at Northwestern University Law School in Chicago on May 25 and 26. Additional remote participants were connected via the Web site of the Tutor/Mentor Connection (T/MC). All agreed that the conference was a great success, providing knowledge and relationships to further their work.

The conference was presented by a partnership of the Cabrini Connections-Tutor/Mentor Connection along with the Children & Family Justice Center at Northwestern University Law School. Keynote speakers were Professor Robert Halpern, Chair of the Research Council at the Erikson Institute, and Sylvia Puente, Director of the Metropolitan Chicago Initiative of the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame. Lt. Gov. Pat Quinn served as Honorary Chairperson for the conference.

While networking and sharing ideas is a focus of every face-to-face conference, the T/MC recognizes a need to connect more people to this conversation on a more consistent basis. Thus, the T/MC launched an e-conference strategy in May 2004 that enables people from around the world to connect with people in Chicago and other cities.

The T/MC continues this strategy, aiming to use its Web portal as a connecting point, linking participants and speakers from multiple conferences to the T/MC and to each other in an ongoing learning and collaboration network.

The T/MC depends on donated space as well as sponsor and advertising dollars to help keep conference fees as low as possible and to provide scholarships and generous group discounts to all who want to attend. If you would like to assist by providing sponsorship, delivering a workshop, or leading a tutor/mentor discussion via the Internet, please e-mail the T/MC at tutormentor2@earthlink.net. The organization also seeks to link with others who are hosting face-to-face and Internet conferences in May, August or November. In August, the T/MC focus will be to help every volunteer-based tutoring and



Conference participants were offered 28 different breakout sessions that provided new ideas and solutions.

mentoring program recruit volunteers for the 2006-2007 school year. Visit the T/MC conference Web site at www.tutormentorconference.bigstep.com for more information.

The mission of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service

is to improve Illinois communities by supporting and enhancing volunteerism and community service. Commissioners, appointed by the governor, represent experience in local government, labor, education, older adults, public health, non-profits, business, volunteerism and national service.

www.illinois.gov/volunteer



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IMPORTANT CONTACTS AT DHS

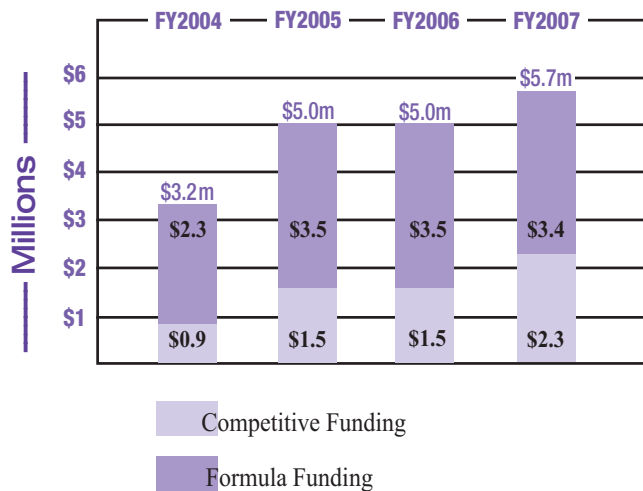
*Steven Guerra, Director,
Division of Community Health and Prevention*

*Kim Fornero, Chief, Bureau of Community-Based
and Primary Prevention*

Numbers you should know

Illinois AmeriCorps Program Funding

FY 2004 through 2007



Note: Funding for Illinois AmeriCorps competitive programs increased by \$795,482 (54.5%) in the 2006-2009 program year over 2003-2006.

2006-2009

Illinois AmeriCorps*State Programs

Illinois Improved Its Ranking from #22 to #8 in AmeriCorps Competitive Funding Nationwide

Louisiana:	\$9,450,183
Massachusetts:	\$5,196,384
California:	\$4,730,273
Washington:	\$4,619,410
Mississippi:	\$3,744,282
Pennsylvania:	\$3,255,390
Texas:	\$2,931,219
Illinois:	\$2,254,971
Georgia:	\$2,221,110
Ohio:	\$2,098,032

Illinois improved from #22 in the previous funding cycle.



Funding for the AmeriCorps national service program comes from the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a federal agency, and is given directly to grantees (National Directs, not listed here) and to governor-appointed state commissions. Thus, the governor-appointed Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) administers funding for AmeriCorps*State grantees funded as both "Competitive" and "Formula," and programs meeting certain guidelines are eligible for continuation funding over a three-year period.

At its quarterly meeting on February 9, 2006, the ICVCS approved the four "Competitive" grantees listed at right. Their applications were forwarded to the CNCS and were successfully approved for a total of nearly \$2.3 million for the 2006-2009 program year. At its quarterly meeting on June 8, 2006, the ICVCS approved AmeriCorps*State "Formula" grants to the 15 organizations listed at right, totaling nearly \$3.4 million. These "Formula" grantees were selected from applications received in response to a request for proposals issued by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Community Health and Prevention on behalf of the ICVCS.

The bar graph here shows Illinois AmeriCorps Program Funding for FY 2004-2007 visually, demonstrating that the 2006-2009 program year should have a significant impact on communities across the State of Illinois.

Congratulations to these organizations on their grant awards, and best wishes for a successful program year!

AmeriCorps* State Grants Awarded

COMPETITIVE GRANTEES

Applicant Organization	Program Name	Award	Region	Project Descriptors
City Year, Inc.	City Year Chicago	\$1,193,200.00	Chicago	After-school program. Tutoring and mentoring.
Literacy Volunteers of America – Illinois, Inc.	Literacy Volunteers of America – Illinois, Inc.	\$ 293,400.00	Statewide	Tutoring and mentoring. Adult literacy.
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	Lutheran Social Services of Illinois	\$ 100,571.00	Various Targeted Prison Communities	Prisoner re-entry and family support.
Southern Illinois University – Edwardsville	AmeriCorps/East St. Louis	\$ 667,800.00	Southwest Illinois/Metro East Area	Tutoring and mentoring. After-school programs.

FORMULA GRANTEES

Applicant Organization	Program Name	Award	Region	Project Descriptors
Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Quad Cities	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Quad Cities	\$ 107,099.15	Northwest Illinois	Youth mentoring.
Board of Trustees, Western Illinois University	Peace Corps/AmeriCorps Fellows	\$ 85,671.50	Western Illinois	Community projects. Community services.
Illinois Public Health Association	Illinois Public Health AmeriCorps	\$ 221,760.00	Statewide	Rural public health outreach and education.
Southwestern Illinois College	Belleville AmeriCorps	\$ 300,109.60	Southwest Illinois/Metro East Area	Tutoring and mentoring at-risk youth.
Asian Human Services	Asian Human Services	\$ 107,100.00	North Chicago	Tutoring and mentoring low income Asian youth. Immigration assistance.
Board of Trustees of the University of Illinois	Project M.O.R.E. (<i>Making Opportunities for Reading Enrichment</i>)	\$ 237,888.00	Chicago	Tutoring and mentoring. After-school program. Family literacy. Client services.
American Red Cross – Chicago	Safe Families AmeriCorps	\$ 252,000.00	Statewide	Health, safety, disaster preparation for youth and low income populations.
Northwestern University Settlement Association	Project YES!	\$ 464,781.66	West Chicago	Tutoring and mentoring adults and youth. After-school program.
Public Allies, Inc.	Public Allies Chicago	\$ 306,537.60	Chicago	After-school program. Tutoring and mentoring.
PCC Community Wellness Center	Westside AmeriCorps	\$ 128,438.40	West Chicago	Prenatal care for low income and teen mothers.
McHenry County Mental Health Board	McHenry County Mental Health Board	\$ 85,680.00	Northern Illinois	Tutoring and mentoring Latino youth, at-risk youth, and youth with a “serious emotional disturbance.” After-school program.
Jumpstart for Young Children, Inc.	Jumpstart AmeriCorps	\$ 220,416.00	Chicago	Early childhood development/preschool tutoring.
Rend Lake College	Land of Lincoln AmeriCorps	\$ 466,017.78	Southern Illinois	Tutoring and mentoring. Community service (domestic violence, conservation).
Aunt Martha’s Youth Service Center, Inc.	Aunt Martha’s Youth Service Center, Inc.	\$ 241,920.00	South Chicago	Tutoring and mentoring at-risk youth.
4 Counties for Kids, Inc.	Project S.A.V.E (<i>Social Action Volunteer Experience</i>) AmeriCorps	\$ 208,829.60	Central Illinois	Tutoring and mentoring. Service learning projects.

The AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project

Now is the time to recruit members for 2006-2007!

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, nearly 50 million people in the United States have a disability and almost 2 million people in Illinois report having a disability. These individuals represent a large, untapped resource for national service and volunteer programs. People with disabilities are looking for opportunities to utilize their talents, develop their skills, and make a difference in their communities. National service programs, such as AmeriCorps, can provide these opportunities.

Individuals with disabilities can reap a variety of benefits from participating in a service program, including earning a living stipend and education award, building professional and life skills, increasing self confidence, making personal and professional contacts, and adding structure to their lives. Programs benefit from having people with disabilities involved as well. Surveys have found that people with disabilities have better employment retention rates than other groups, possess valuable problem-solving skills, and have proven to be dependable, dedicated, hard-working and productive employees. Having people with disabilities involved in service programs also adds diversity, which is valuable when shaping the programs' focus and direction.

Many programs are currently recruiting candidates to participate in the 2006 AmeriCorps service year. The Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (ICVCS) encourages programs to reach out to the disability community when recruiting AmeriCorps Members. Such efforts will be a focus of the ICVCS over the coming program year through the Illinois AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project. Facilitated by the Illinois Public Health Association, this project provides outreach to, recruitment of, and placement of persons with disabilities in AmeriCorps programs throughout Illinois, and assists with corresponding special accommodation requests. A disability agency resource list provided by the project assists with recruitment of persons with disabilities. By utilizing the resource list of nearly 800 agencies in Illinois, service programs can target their recruitment materials to agencies in the communities where the program is located. In addition to sending recruitment materials, service programs are encouraged to network with various disability agencies and to keep the agencies up to date on opportunities available for the individuals they serve.

Participating in a national service program is a mutually beneficial opportunity for persons with a disability and for Illinois' AmeriCorps service programs. For more information on how to recruit and provide special needs accommodations for persons with a disability, contact the AmeriCorps Disability Outreach Project at 217.522.5687 or visit the National Service Inclusion Project on the Web at: www.serviceandinclusion.org.

The Satisfaction of Helping Others

In 1994, doctors found a benign, walnut-sized tumor on the right hemisphere of Gelinda Condos' brain. During the operation to remove the tumor, Gelinda lost a lot of blood and suffered a stroke, which paralyzed the left side of her body. Gelinda moved to Chicago in 1997 to be closer to her siblings. While searching for employment in the city, she read an ad in the paper calling for volunteer literacy tutors for female ex-convicts. Gelinda began tutoring at a shelter where her supervisor was an AmeriCorps member. A conversation with that member in 2004 led Gelinda to Literacy Volunteers of America – Illinois' VOCAL AmeriCorps program and her position as a Referral Specialist at The Council for Disability Rights (The Council).



Gelinda Condos says, "To live, I must actively participate in life and not give up, but welcome the opportunity to learn new ways of doing things."

Gelinda thoroughly enjoys her work at The Council, where her main job is to answer phone calls from people with disabilities and refer them to organizations that can serve their needs. She says that she has always loved helping people and likes that she has found a position where she can do just that. "It is very important to make a special effort to remain positive and believe in yourself," says Gelinda. "Being positive in most respects reflects a winning attitude . . . so I live, love, laugh and worship!"

"LV- Illinois strives for diversity in its corps and has a broad range of ages and ethnicity among its members. We also seek to include special needs populations, and with the Council for Disability Rights among our host sites have learned how to most effectively make use of the talents and abilities of the disabled member of our corps"

*Dorothy M. Miaso,
Executive Director
Literacy Volunteers of Illinois*

Training & Professional Development Opportunities

Satellite Teleconference on Volunteerism 2006 "The Importance of Cultivating Volunteerism in Youth"

Numerous Downlink Sites Across Illinois

July 18, 2006

9:30 a.m. to 12 noon

FREE

Registration Required Via Web site:

www.chtc.org

217.753.4066

AmeriCorps Program Directors' Meeting

Springfield, Illinois

August 28 – 31, 2006

Volunteer Management Training Illinois Volunteer Management Certificate Opportunity

Chicago, Illinois

Day 1: **September 20, 2006**

Day 2: **September 27, 2006**

info@communityresourcenetwork.org

312.491.7800

Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference

"Commitment, Service & Success"

Carterville, Illinois

October 11, 2006

Illinois AmeriCorps Opening Day Ceremonies

Bloomington, Illinois

October 25, 2006

Association of Volunteer Administrators of Metropolitan Chicago Sharing/Networking/Training Last Tuesday of every month

For topics, locations: 773.753.1382
matt.porth@msichicago.org

Teen REACH/Learn and Serve Program Promotes HIV/AIDS Awareness & Testing



Raising HIV/AIDS awareness and encouraging testing are two of the major goals of Project 8.

In a climate where taking on tough issues is often avoided, the teens of Macon County Teen REACH of Decatur have mobilized their Community-Based Learn and Serve (CBLs) program, "Project 8," to inform and educate their peers about the harsh realities of HIV/AIDS and to encourage HIV testing. On December 1, 2005, (World AIDS Day), the group partnered with a local chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to begin a campaign to

reach 10,000 teens with its message and to test 1,000 for HIV. "We teens believe it is important to educate and test more teens for HIV," said 15-year-old Tamaron Green of Champaign. With the help of billboards, school and youth program visits through the Coordinating Leadership Council, and relationships with elected officials and public and private entities, these youth seek to take an active role in promoting policy initiatives that affect the health and well-being of Illinois youth. The Coordinating Leadership Council, trained and commissioned to speak to large groups, facilitate discussion sessions, and lobby at the state capitol, gave HIV/AIDS awareness presentations at schools in Decatur, East St. Louis, Champaign and Bloomington.

Over a six-month period, Project 8 coordinated a star-studded line-up of political figures, Black Entertainment Television personalities, and Christian, R&B, and hip hop musicians to join its efforts aimed at HIV awareness. The activities kicked off with the "Party with a Purpose" in February, with R&B singers Sharissa and 3 Piece. On April 10 and 11, Project 8 sponsored a gospel benefit concert featuring not only music, but presentations by people living with HIV/AIDS. April 11 and 12 brought the national spotlight, as Black Entertainment Television and Gerard Henry, host of the gospel show "Lift Every Voice," ventured to Illinois in support of Project 8 and Macon County Teen REACH. These events brought together approximately 1,400 people and introduced them to children and families living with HIV. Finally, on April 12 at the state capitol, Project 8 hosted a town hall meeting on HIV/AIDS for more than 400 teens. Splendor Smith, a 13-year-old Project 8 member, exclaimed, "We were really excited about BET coming! We had a big rap star here and R&B groups. Now, we bring another type of crowd to our message. All we want to do is reach as many teens and people as possible to let them know that we must live good lives and respect ourselves, our bodies and each other."

As of April 30, the group reported, 221 people have been tested as a result of its activities. Another major testing day is being planned for the summer of 2006, during which the group will give away tickets to concerts by major artists who will be coming to support the effort.

For more information about Project 8, its events and its efforts, visit www.ywapd.org and click on "Project 8."



The teens of Macon County Teen REACH have launched Project 8 to combat HIV/AIDS.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

August 2006	2006 – 2009 AmeriCorps*State Program Cycle begins statewide
August 28-31, 2006	AmeriCorps*State Program Directors' Meeting, Springfield
September 11, 2006	One Day's Pay, www.onedayspay.org
September 21, 2006	ICVCS Commission Meeting, Chicago & Springfield
October 25, 2006	Illinois AmeriCorps Opening Day, Bloomington

Add this to your calendar!



Volunteerism

October 11 06

Southern Illinois Volunteerism Conference

A Focus on Commitment, Service and Success

9:00 am - 2:30 pm at the John A. Logan Conference Center

(registration from 8:00 - 8:45 am)

If your organization would like to have a display/volunteer recruitment booth, please contact Lauralyn Cima at John A. Logan College
618.985.3741, ext. 8303 or lauralyncima@jalc.edu



SERVE Illinois is a publication of the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism & Community Service. Send articles for submission and suggestions to:

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This material is based upon work supported by the Corporation for National and Community Service under AmeriCorps Grant No. 05PTHIL001. Opinions or points of view expressed in this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Corporation for National Service or the AmeriCorps program.



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